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Letter dated 18 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach a document on the wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council for the month of March, which is to be held by the Council on Wednesday, 30 March 2005 (see annex). The wrap-up session will be a public meeting, which non-members of the Council are encouraged to attend.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**
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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Wrap-up session on the work of the Security Council for the month of March 2005

"The African dimension in the work of the Security Council"

Background paper

1. On 30 March 2005, the Security Council will hold a wrap-up session on "The African dimension in the work of the Security Council". Following consultations, members of the Council have agreed that this session should be a public meeting, which non-members of the Council are encouraged to attend. This non-paper provides information regarding the discussions at the wrap-up session.

Objectives

2. Throughout the years since the founding of the Organization, inter and intra-State conflicts in Africa have required the attention and involvement of the Security Council, in line with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Response by the Council to each particular case brought to its consideration has varied widely during its lifetime and a number of best practices and lessons learned have been gradually incorporated to its usual approach. The overall balance of the Council engagement in Africa presents a mixed picture, with some cases of success and others in which re-emergence of conflict has been verified. Yet current mandates for peacekeeping operations in the African continent, as well as for political missions and peacebuilding offices, benefit highly from past experience.

3. The Security Council's assessment of its work, methods and procedures must be an ongoing process. In the case of Africa, this evaluation is carried out from time to time with regard to specific elements and concepts, taking advantage, inter alia, of thematic debates and consideration of reports of the Secretary-General, as was the case in February 2005, when the Council held discussions on children and armed conflict (23 February) and on cross-border issues in West Africa (25 February). The Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa also provides a useful and valuable forum for discussions of this nature.

4. The wrap-up session to be held on 30 March 2005 should offer the opportunity to discuss the manner in which these regular assessments are reflected in the daily work of the Security Council when addressing African matters it is seized of.

Scope

5. During the month of March, the Security Council is expected to adopt resolutions on the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS), the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Monitoring Group on Somalia with regard to African issues. A number of reports (Somalia, the Somalia Monitoring Group, MONUC, the United Nations Operation

in Burundi (ONUB), UNMEE, the Security Council sanctions Committee concerning Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Liberia experts and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)) are to be issued and considered by the members of the Council. The Council is to hold more than 10 informal meetings related to situations in different countries in Africa.

6. It is important to note that the wrap-up session should not be an occasion for re-addressing the particularities of specific situations in Africa. It should provide for an institutional debate that builds on previous discussions vis-à-vis the current agenda of the Security Council and its methods of works. It could also discuss the future of the consideration of African issues by the Council.

7. The Presidency proposes that, in addressing the work of the Security Council for March 2005 with regard to the situation in Africa, members and non-members of the Council concentrate on one or more of the following areas of discussion:

(a) Conflict prevention:

- Enhancing coordination and cooperation with other United Nations bodies, programmes and agencies, international financial institutions and the international community as a whole in order to help address deep-rooted social and economic causes of conflict in Africa;
- Promoting democracy, rule of law and good governance;
- Supporting actions for a better management of natural resources by African countries at risk of conflict;
- Combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

(b) Addressing conflicts:

- Improving the decision-making process within the Security Council, inter alia, by promoting better interaction with other United Nations bodies, regional organizations, mediators and representatives of civil society related to conflict situations in Africa;
- Exploring available non-military options;
- Promoting the effectiveness of sanctions regimes, in particular monitoring mechanisms, adequate listing and de-listing procedures, enforcing the capacity of Member States to implement sanctions and promoting humanitarian impact assessments;
- Responding to the need of protecting civilians against genocide, large-scale killings, ethnic cleansing and other serious violations of humanitarian law;
- Ensuring effective and timely deployment of peacekeeping missions.

(c) Post-conflict:

- Promoting the provision of assistance by the international community to post-conflict peacebuilding efforts;
- Implementing effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation and

disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes;

- Combating impunity in cases of violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- Promoting democracy, rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights;
- Recognizing the political context in promoting justice and rule of law in countries emerging from conflict;
- Improving interaction with regional and subregional organizations;
- Making best use of Security Council missions to Africa, including with regard to their periodicity and follow-up.

Participation in the debate

8. Members and non-members of the Security Council are to alternate after every three speakers in delivering their statements during the wrap-up session. The order will be established by drawing lots. Statements are expected to be concise (around 5 minutes) and focused.